

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 377
By Cole (Carter)

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Congressman James H. Quillen on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.

WHEREAS, Congressman James H. Quillen will celebrate his 80th birthday in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and ninety-six, having been born in the Southwest Virginia town of Wayland on January 11, 1916; and

WHEREAS, when he was a very young child, Jimmy Quillen's parents moved their family of ten children to the Northeast Tennessee town of Kingsport, which has since been Jimmy Quillen's hometown; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Dobyons-Bennett High School, Jimmy Quillen held jobs in the newspaper industry, then later at the age of nineteen founded his own paper with only the change in his pocket, and thereby, at one time served as the youngest newspaper publisher in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Quillen began his military service in 1942 as Ensign in the U. S. Navy, rising in rank while fighting for his country in the Second World War, before being discharged as a Lieutenant in 1946; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of his tour of duty, Lieutenant James H. Quillen returned to his native East Tennessee and entered a myriad of business interests, including insurance, real estate, and construction; and

WHEREAS, in 1952 Jimmy Quillen married the former Cecile Cox who remains today his life partner as well as one who is credited with being a major influence on his career; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Quillen was first elected to office as a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives in 1954, representing the people of his district in the State House until 1962, and serving as minority leader from 1959-60 and on the Legislative Council; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Quillen was first elected to the 88th U.S. Congress in 1962, after winning a hotly contested primary, and has represented East Tennessee in the United States Congress since 1963, now holding the record for the longest continuous service by any Tennessean to the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Quillen demonstrated his sincere desire for better health care for the citizens in Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and the Western Mountains of North Carolina by leading the battle to establish the medical school at East Tennessee State University, which bears his name in remembrance of his successful effort; and

WHEREAS, two other medical facilities serving the Tri-Cities area have been dedicated to his honor: first in 1991, the James H. and Cecile C. Quillen Center for Rehabilitative Medicine was dedicated in Johnson City and then in 1994 the new cardiac wing of Holston Valley Hospital and Medical Center in Kingsport was named the James H. Quillen Regional Heart Center; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Quillen has been honored by several institutions with honorary titles, degrees, namesakes, and awards, including: Tennessee Statesman of the Year, Interstate Highway 181 from Virginia to North Carolina, the Silver Helmet Award, the George L. Carter Award from East Tennessee State University, a Doctor of Law Degree from Milligan College, a Doctor of Letters from King College, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Tusculum College; and

WHEREAS, Congressman James H. Quillen has helped shape the public policy that has made America the world's economic superpower and the guarantor of peace and freedom, while working harder than any other member in Congress to stay in touch with his constituents,

and all the while working fiercely to defend the values that have made America great; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize and honor Congressman James H. Quillen on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Congressman Quillen with this final clause omitted from such copy.